



JOHN ENGEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

EXHIBIT 9, 5

DATE 2/1/07

HB 415

February 1, 2007

Chairman Elsie Arntzen, and
Members of the House Local Government Committee
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX to (406)444-4825

Chairman Arntzen, and Members of the House Local Government Committee:

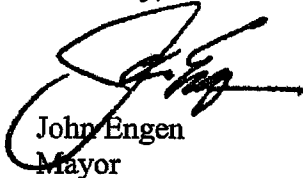
The City of Missoula would like to go on record in support of Representative Reinhart's House Bill 415, requiring parkland dedication in subdivisions. HB 415 is a proposed change in subdivision law to require parkland dedication for minor and subsequent minor subdivisions. Up until the early '90s, state law required parkland dedication for minor subdivisions. This change in the law encouraged developers to submit multiple minor subdivisions instead of major subdivisions, thus perpetuating fractured land development patterns and the inability to plan for coordinated infrastructure development.

Often in the case of minor subdivisions, which are divisions resulting in five or fewer lots, dedication of parkland doesn't result in a useable park space. In those cases cash-in-lieu funds may be contributed. Communities may use those funds to purchase lands for useable parks in desirable locations determined by their growth policy, or for improvements or maintenance of existing parks.

Montana is growing in population, and with it, so is the need for parks, recreational facilities, trails and conservation areas. Leisure time contributes significantly to individuals' economic well-being, health, and family and social relations. People's ability to recreate results in reduced health care costs, increased productivity, and higher morale. Passage of House Bill 415 will enable Montana's cities and counties to create healthier individuals and communities, and contribute to the overall quality of life.

The City of Missoula encourages you to support House Bill 415.

Sincerely,



John Engen
Mayor

cc: The Missoula Delegation
Alec Hanson, Director Montana League of Cities and Towns